



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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DLNR CONTINUES EFFORTS TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR 6 KAHANA FAMILIES -- CHAIRPERSON TO MEET THURSDAY WITH FAMILIES

HONOLULU – Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Chairperson Laura H. Thielen said at a press conference today she will be meeting tomorrow with members of six Kahana Valley families as a group to discuss with them options for immediate transitional and longer-term housing that the Department has working to secure for them.

She stated that DLNR does not plan to proceed with evictions this week while these efforts are continuing.

DLNR has been working with a windward church which has offered to provide immediate transitional housing for the families. The Department is also working with housing agencies to provide medium and longer-term housing options

Representatives from Alu Like and Catholic Charities were at Kahana at noon today to provide service program information for all Kahana valley residents at the orientation hall.

At a news conference today, Thielen said, “The department respects the original vision of the living park, and dedication of the Kahana families and the many community members who spent approximately 15 years developing plans to accommodate a limited number of private residential leases in the park where each lessee provides 25 hours a month in interpretive services supporting the living park in place of a lease rent,” said Laura H. Thielen, DLNR chairperson

“This agreement struck a balance between the interests of the original valley residents and the broader public park purpose where educational opportunities would be provided to visitors by the residents,” she said.

“We continue to look for solutions that will recognize and support this balance between limited residential use that preserves public park use at the same time,” she said.

“However, any solution will require these six families to move, since they are currently living in the public park area,” Thielen concluded.

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